

Written Testimony on Behalf of Salem Cinema  
SB 5555 – Joint Committee on Ways and Means

I would like to add this written testimony on behalf of Salem Cinema for SB-5555.

Salem Cinema is an integral part of the Salem/Keizer community. It is an oasis of calm in this hectic world. It's a refuge where myself and others can see a cross section of films that tell character driven stories from around the world, and not one includes a superhero.

Salem Cinema also provides a much-needed venue where Pacific Northwest filmmaker filmmakers can showcase their work. I have seen many locally short films, most recently the wonderful Phoenix, Oregon. Very few theaters in this region put locally produced films on their schedule. If we lost independent art house theaters, like Salem Cinema, local filmmakers would have even less opportunities to showcase their work.

Years ago I volunteered at the Salem Cinema Film festival. I attended a showing of documentary highlighting a Portland musician. Including me there were seven people in the audience. Despite the sparse turnout I will never forget how excited the director and the producer were that we showed up to see their film. In their opening remarks they expressed how thankful they were to Salem Cinema. They never thought anyone one would see their film until Salem Cinema booked them.

Salem Cinema is an integral part of the Salem/Keizer community. I encourage this committee to work toward ensuring that theaters like Salem Cinema continue to thrive and serve their community.

Sincerely,  
Robert Becker  
Salem Cinema Supporter